

Government appointment to support Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP) is working closely with Government following the Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment Minister Steven Joyce's announcement he has appointed a Crown Manager to support the Polytechnic through a challenging period. This is a governance level appointment and will not directly impact on the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Executive.

The Council is disappointed that this action has taken place, but understands it is necessary to assist TPP in addressing the current challenges. The Council and management are committed to working collaboratively with the Minister of Tertiary Education, the Tertiary Education Commission and the Crown Manager.

The Council's focus for TPP will be on ensuring that our educational provision meets the needs of current and future students, our communities and industry partners. We have a strong commitment to ensuring that the education and economic development issues for the West Coast region remain front and centre when managing through our current challenges.

"This appointment is an opportunity for the Polytechnic to address a number of the concerns and issues that the Council and management team have identified and sought to resolve over recent years," says TPP's Chair Graeme McNally.

The appointment will not affect the studies of TPP students nor the programmes offered in 2017. TPP staff will continue work as usual, delivering quality education training.

Mr McNally says TPP recognises there is work to be done to boost enrolments in key programmes, to improve financial performance, strengthen education quality systems and in offering targeted training options to a wide range of students. The continued focus on quality education in our West Coast programmes, in our MAINZ and industry training programmes, and through our international partnerships, will ensure that the polytechnic can contribute strongly to the Tertiary Education Strategy and to the Action Plans being prepared for the West Coast Growth Study.

Whilst there have been no discussions with Government on TPP's place in the future of West Coast tertiary education, the recent Tai Poutini West Coast Growth Study Opportunities report does recognise the importance of education to the region and suggests that this is one of the platforms from which the region can leverage growth. The Polytechnic Council and management team are heartened by this, and in particular, the suggestion that West Coast education organisations should work together with government agencies to identify and evaluate options for the future of education delivery and resourcing to meet the unique characteristics of the region.

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